

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080751

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 5069 ACTION SECSTATE DATED APR 9:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJ: NACCFM: INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON PROCEEDINGS

1. INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA INVITED IN THE CHARGE ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 9 TO BRIEF HIM ON PROCEEDINGS THUS FAR AT THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND TO POSE A QUESTION REGARDING THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF A MODEST INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY FUND FOR VIETNAM AND LAOS (REPORTED SEPTEL).

2. MEHTA REPORTED THAT THE DELHI DECLARATION WILL PROBABLY BE MORE MODERATE THAN THAT AT COLOMBO; HE CERTAINLY EXPECTED IT WOULD BE NO WORSE. THE GOI'S PROBLEM AT THE CONFERENCE, HE SAID, WAS TO BALANCE THE NOW GOVT'S DESIRE TO SHWO CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY WITH WHAT HE IMPLIED WERE ITS NEW ATTITUDES AND APPROACHES. IN OTHER WORDS, THE NEW GOVT HAD TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CREDENTIALS WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WHILE ENCOURAGING MODERATION IN
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THE CONFERENCE.

3. IN REGARD TO PUERTO RICO, MEHTA SAID THE INDIANS TRIED ALL LAST NIGHT TO GET THE LANGUAGE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PAPER MODIFIED. HE IDENTIFIED NOT ONLY CUBA BUT ALSO GUYANA AS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN PUSHING RADICAL LANGUAGE. THE INDIANS, MEHTA SAID, WERE TRYING TO KEEP SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE 7.S. OUT

OF THE LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO AND ELIMINATE THE REFERENCE TO INDEPENDENCE WHICH IS NOW THERE. MEHTA SAID HE PERSONALLY SPOKE TO THE GUYANANS ABOUT THE MEAGRE SIX PERCENT VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN U.S. ELECTIONS. MEHTA TOLD THE CHARGE HE THOUGHT IT SATISFACTORY TO LEAVE IN LANGUAGE OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE CHARGE REPLIED THAT, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT ELECTIONS, WE CONSIDERED ANY MENTION OF PUERTO RICO TO BE IMPROPER. MEHTA SAID THAT THE INDIANS WERE THE ONLY COUNTRY TO SPEAK OUT ON PUERTO RICO DURING THE DEBATE LAST NIGHT. HE BELIEVED THE LANGUAGE WOULD BE NO WORSE THAN THAT AT COLOMBO AND PROBABLY BETTER. THE CHARGE ASKED WHAT THE PROSPECT WAS FOR RESERVATIONS, AS AT COLOMBO, AND MEHTA SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS.

4. IN REGARD TO KOREA, MEHTA SAID THAT THE INDIANS IN THEIR DRAFT TRIED TO FOCUS ON THE 1972 AGREEMENT FOR JOINT TALKS. THE NORTH KOREANS HOWEVER, HAD PROPOSED AMENDMENTS LARGELY FROM THE LANGUAGE FROM THE COLOMBO DECLARATION AND MEHTA THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GIVE THIS. MEHTA SAID THE INDIAN DELEGATION WAS TRYING ITS BEST TO ELIMINATE THE REFERENCE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE CHARGE MENTIONED RESERVATIONS AND SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR LATER MULTILATERAL MEETINGS THAT THE TREND ESTABLISHED AT COLOMBO BE MAINTAINED. MEHTA REPLIED THAT RESERVATIONS AT COLOMBO HAD PERTAINED TO A SEPARATE RESOLUTION; HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT THE PROSPECT FOR RESERVATIONS TO KOREAN LANGUAGE IN THE DELHI DECLARATION, BUT OBVIOUSLY HOPED THE LANGUAGE COULD BE MADE SATISFACTORY SO THAT RESERVATIONS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

5. MEHTA SAID THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE HAS BEEN THE MIDDLE EAST.
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WHEN ARAB COUNTRIES GATHER IN MULTILATERAL FORA, HE EXPLAINED, THE LANGUAGE TENDS TO BECOME EXTREME "ZIONISM, AGGRESSION, ETC". HE SAID THIS WAS NOT QUITE IN KEEPING WITH INDIANS ON RATIONAL THINKING. HIS IMPLICATION WAS THAT INDIA WOULD NONETHELESS GO ALONG.

6. COMMENT: PART OF MEHTA'S APPARENT PURPOSE IN SQUEEZING IN AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE CHARGE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE HE HAD TO RUSH OFF WITH THE VISITING FOREIGN MINISTERS TO KASHMIR WAS TO EXPLAIN THE POSITION IN WHICH THE NEW INDIAN GOVT FOUND ITSELF. IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE AS A MODERATE IT HAD TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CREDENTIALS WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. MEHTA ALSO WANTED US TO KNOW THE GOI WAS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OUR CONCERNS. WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THIS AND THUS FAR ARE HOPEFUL THAT MEHTA'S FORECAST OF NOTHING WORSE THAN COLOMBO AND PROBABLY SOMETHING BETTER WILL BE CORRECT. SCHNEIDER UNQUOTE
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